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CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
LINCOLNIAN
SOCIETY,
OF YALE COLLEGE.

Instituted 1753.

NEW HAVEN:
PRINTED BY TUTTLE, MOREHOUSE & TAYLOR.
1863.

LINONIA HALL: Wednesday Evening, }
April 1st, 1863. }

Resolved, That the Committee on Revision be and is hereby instructed to cause to be printed and bound in a convenient form, ten copies of the Constitution and Laws of this Society, one copy of which shall be given to each of the following Officers, viz: the President, Treasurer, Librarian, Secretary and Vice-Secretary, each of whom shall transmit said copy to his successor; and also, that a copy be kept in the President's desk, the remainder to be kept in the Library.

THOMAS A. EMERSON, *President*.

CHARLES M. WHITTELSEY, *Secretary*.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

LINONIAN SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION I. This Society shall be called Name.
LINONIA.

SECTION II. Its object shall be to promote Object.
Friendship, Social Intercourse, and Literary Improvement.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION I. Any undergraduate member of Membership
the Academic department of Yale College, who
has not joined the Society of the Brothers in
Unity, may become a member of this Society,
by a majority vote of those present at any
regular meeting.

Pledge.

SECTION II. Every person when admitted into this Society, must assent to the following pledge :—

YOU PLEDGE YOUR HONOR TO OBEY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE LINONIAN SOCIETY: TO OBSERVE ITS INTERESTS, TO KEEP ITS SECRETS AND TO DO YOUR BEST TO PROMOTE ITS WELFARE. THIS YOU SOLEMNLY PROMISE.

Honorary Mem-
bers.

SECTION III. Whoever may be recommended by any active member, may be admitted an Honorary member of this Society, on the conditions requisite for regular members.

When active
membership ceases.

SECTION IV. Members of the Senior Class shall cease to be *Active*, and shall become *Honorary* members of this Society, on the third regular meeting of the Summer term: but the officers shall continue to serve until the expiration of the terms for which they were elected.

Members leaving
College become
honorary
members.

SECTION V. Any member when no longer in College, shall become an Honorary member of this Society; but no Honorary member shall vote or hold any office except that of Treasurer or Librarian.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION I. The Officers of this Society shall Officers. be a President, and Vice-President from the Senior Class: a Secretary from the Junior Class: a Vice-Secretary from the Sophomore Class: a Treasurer and Librarian, who must be graduate Honorary members of the Society, residing in New Haven: a Prudential Committee, to consist of the President, the Librarian and the Treasurer, and in addition, one member of the Senior and Junior Classes respectively.

SECTION II. No active member shall be Qualifications of Officers. elected twice to the same office, or be eligible to any office unless he be a qualified voter.

SECTION III. No member shall hold two offi- No member can hold two offices. ces at the same time, except in the cases provided for by the first section in this article.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION I. It shall be the duty of the PRES- Duty of the President. IDENT to preside at all meetings of the Society: to give a decision at the close of each debate

on questions regularly discussed, and to preside at the sessions of the Prudential Committee.

Duties of the
Vice-President.

SECTION II. If the President be absent, his duties shall devolve on the VICE-PRESIDENT. If the latter be absent, the Society shall appoint a President *pro tempore*.

Duty of the
Secretary.

SECTION III. The SECRETARY shall record the transactions of each meeting, and read them before the Society at each succeeding regular meeting. He shall preserve all written motions, bills and petitions. He shall keep a list of the Active members of the Society, for election and other purposes; and see that every newly elected member signs his name in its appropriate place, in the separate book provided for that purpose: he shall also keep two copies of the Constitution and By-Laws, in which he shall insert all additional clauses and amendments. He shall have one of these copies present at every regular meeting, and shall read from it, just previous to each election, such parts as relate thereto. It shall be the further duty of the

Secretary to cause to be put up in conspicuous places on the morning preceding each regular meeting of the Society, not less than four posters stating the time of meeting, the Literary Appointments of the evening and the subject for Debate.

SECTION IV. The VICE-SECRETARY shall aid ^{Duty of the Vice-Secretary.} the Secretary, when necessary; in the latter's absence perform his duties, and notify appointees of their appointments.

SECTION V. The PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE ^{Duty of the Prudential Committee.} shall manage the business affairs of the Society, and have a general supervision of the Hall and the Library, subject to such rules as the Society may adopt. They shall make a report at the fourth regular meeting of the Summer term.

SECTION VI. The TREASURER shall receive ^{Duty of the Treasurer.} from the Treasurer of the College, all monies accruing to the Society from taxes and fines, and shall collect subscriptions, which he shall disburse to the order of the Prudential Committee alone. At the fourth regular meeting of

the Summer term, he shall report to the Society his account of receipts and expenditures.

^{Duty of the Li-}
brarian.

SECTION VII. The LIBRARIAN shall have immediate charge of the Library. At the first meeting of the Prudential Committee for each term, he shall present a list of all the books lost or damaged during the preceding term, and record the damages assessed on them by the Committee. He shall inflict all penalties for violating Library Laws, and shall collect, or report to the College Treasurer, all fines and damages; rendering account thereof to the Treasurer of the Society alone. He shall keep the archives of the Society and record all books coming into the Society's possession, and the names of any donors. He shall not permit any person legally excluded from the Library, to draw books either on his own or another's share, nor any person—except in cases which may be provided for—to have access to the Library at any time, other than those specified in the Rules and By-Laws, on pain of forfeiting his office.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION I. The Elections of this Society ^{Elections.} shall be held on the fourth regular meeting of the Summer term, the fifth and last of the Fall term, the sixth and last of the Spring term.

SECTION II. At every Election, a President, <sup>Election of Off-
cers.</sup> Vice-President, Secretary and Vice-Secretary shall be chosen: and on the fourth regular meeting of the Summer term, a Treasurer and Prudential Committee.

SECTION III. The Librarian shall be ap- <sup>Appointment of
Librarian,</sup> pointed whenever a vacancy occurs, by the President of the College, on the nomination of the Society, and shall hold office during good behavior.

SECTION IV. No member shall vote for any <sup>Qualifications of
voters.</sup> officer or appointee, or to impeach any officer, unless he has paid all his fines, damages and taxes.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION I. The Society shall meet in Lino- <sup>Regular meet-
ings.</sup>

nia Hall each Wednesday evening of a collegiate term.

Exercises.

SECTION II. The regular exercises of each regular meeting, excepting the evening of election, shall be the Secretary's Report, Reading of Questions for Debate, Miscellaneous Business, Composition and Oral Debate: after which the President shall give a decision, both on the merits of the question and the weight of argument, as presented by the disputants.

Orators.

SECTION III. At each election meeting, the Society shall elect by ballot a member, either of the Senior or Junior Class, to deliver an Oration at the next election; provided that at the fifth election of the year the members of the Senior class shall elect one of their own number, to deliver a Valedictory Oration on the next election evening.

Readers.

SECTION IV. At each regular meeting the President shall appoint a Reader, whose duty it shall be to read before the Society, four weeks after his appointment, a Composition written by himself, and such other Composi-

tions as may be given him for that purpose by any member. The Readers shall be appointed in the order of the classes, beginning with the Senior Class.

SECTION V. On the sixth regular meeting ^{Committee on Questions.} of each term, the President shall appoint three Seniors, two Juniors, two Sophomores and two Freshmen, a committee to choose questions for the ensuing term. They shall announce their choice to the Society, three weeks from the date of their appointment: but the Society has the power to change any question by Substitution, provided it be done two weeks previous to the time for its discussion.

SECTION VI. The President or Prudential ^{Special Meetings} Committee may call a special meeting at any time: notice of which shall be given by Posters.

ARTICLE VII.

Should this Society ever be dissolved, its Library and other property shall become the property of Yale College.

ARTICLE VIII.

SECTION I. Thirty members shall constitute ^{Quorum.}

a quorum for the election of officers, and twenty for Miscellaneous Business.

Impeachment.

SECTION II. Any officer may be impeached for malfeasance in office, if the charges are presented in writing one week beforehand; and a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters present shall remove him from office and expel him from the Society. No person thus removed shall be restored to membership, except by a like vote.

Amendments
and additional
clauses.

SECTION III. Any proposition to amend or add to the Constitution or By-Laws, if submitted in writing for one week, shall, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, be incorporated in them.

Suspension of
Rules

SECTION IV. Any existing rule of the Society may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the members present: provided however, that the rules for electing officers may in no case be suspended.

Exclusion from
the Library.

SECTION V. No member, whose taxes are reported to the Librarian as unpaid, shall be allowed to draw books from the Library.

BY-LAWS

OF THE

LINONIAN SOCIETY.

Article First.

THE LIBRARY.

SECTION I. Books shall be drawn (during term time) Regulations for drawing Books.
under the following

RULES.

I. During term time the Library shall be opened for the delivery of books daily, from 1.45 to 2.15 o'clock, P. M., unless the books have been called in by previous notice.

II. All books shall be drawn in the following manner: the drawer shall write on a slip of paper his *name*, and the numbers of the books he wishes, and hand it to one of the Assisting Librarians. The Assisting Librarian shall erase from the list such numbers as are not placed in the drawer's hands, and *check* those which the drawer returns to him. All unchecked numbers shall be considered as retained; and if they be not submitted to the Librarian for charge, the drawer shall be excluded from the Library till they are returned.

III. Encyclopedias may be retained from the Library one week only; all other books three weeks, except when recalled.

IV. No person shall be allowed to call for more than eight books on his own or four on another's share, from which to choose the number that he is entitled to draw.

V. Books must be charged in all cases before they are taken from the Library.

VI. Four volumes only may stand charged to the same name at the same time, and no person may draw books upon the name of any other member, without presenting to the Librarian a request in writing from that member, naming the individual book or books; the said member becoming responsible for any fines assessed upon, or loss of such books.

VII. Books may not be renewed before returning to the shelves.

VIII. During the time of drawing books, no person shall be allowed to pass behind the railing except the Librarian and his Assistants.

IX. Books belonging to the Library shall not be taken out of the City of New Haven.

X. **The acting and graduated members** of the other Societies in College may draw books under the same regulations as acting members of this Society.

XI. **Honorary Members** of this and the other College Societies, may draw books under the same regulations as acting members, by the payment of one dollar a term, in advance, to the Librarian of the Society of which they are members.

PENALTIES.

I. Persons retaining books from the Library for a longer time than above specified, shall be fined one cent per volume for every day of such retention.

II. When the books have been recalled by notice, the above fine shall be increased to ten cents per volume for every day retained.

III. The fine for taking books from the Library uncharged, shall be twenty-five cents per volume.

IV. If books are seriously injured or lost, the person to whom they are charged shall be held responsible to replace them, or pay the cost of replacing them to the Librarian or to the College Treasurer.

V. Persons neglecting or refusing to pay their fines shall not be

permitted to draw books until such fines have been paid; and it shall be the duty of the Librarian, in case any person is excluded from the use of this Library, to notify the Librarians of the other Societies, who will also exclude him from the use of their Libraries, until they receive notice from the Librarian of this Society that the cause of exclusion no longer exists.

SECTION 2. The Library shall be opened for drawing books, the first Saturday of each term, and closed the last Wednesday, unless the Prudential Committee otherwise direct. Opening of the Library.

SECTION 3. Once in four weeks, the Librarian shall examine his lists; and if he find that any member has retained a book more than one week beyond the lawful time, he shall send him a filled blank, containing the number of the volume, and requiring its immediate return. For each day, after being notified, such member shall be fined ten cents per volume, till it is returned. Any person, moreover, notified to return books, shall be at once excluded from the Library, till the books are brought back, and shall be reported to the Librarian of the Brothers in Unity. Recall of Books.

SECTION 4. On the last Wednesday of each term, the Librarian shall cause to be posted at least eight notices, in as many conspicuous places, requiring all books to be returned on or before the following Saturday; and no books shall be called in at any other time, unless the Prudential Committee otherwise direct. Notices for returning Books.

SECTION 5. The Librarian, or some member of the Society whom the Prudential Committee may ap- Drawing of books during vacation.

point, shall, at stated times during the Winter and Spring vacations, allow books to be drawn from the Library, under the regulations contained in the first section of this chapter ; except that no penalties shall be incurred under the operation of the third rule, in case the books thus drawn shall have been returned on or before the last Monday of the vacation. The person thus having charge of the Library shall, on or before the last Wednesday of the vacation, post notices in the manner prescribed in the fourth section of this article, requiring all books belonging to the Library to be returned on or before the following Monday ; and no books shall be drawn from the Library during the Summer vacation.

Assistants.

SECTION 6. The Librarian may appoint two active members of the Society to assist him in delivering books.

Article Second.

FINANCES.

Taxes : when due.

SECTION 1. The regular taxes of each member of this Society shall be two dollars a term : which, together with all fines and damages not otherwise provided for, shall be charged in the regular term bills, and paid at the office of the College Treasurer.

Subscriptions.

SECTION 2. Subscriptions may be taken up for such purposes, in such a manner and at such times as the Prudential Committee may direct.

SECTION 3. The President shall be exempt from Exempted taxes. one term's ; and the Senior and Junior members of the Prudential Committee from the regular taxes. The members of the Senior class shall be exempt from the regular taxes of their third term.

SECTION 4. The Librarian shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars, and the Assistant Librarians shall each receive ten dollars, and be exempt from the taxes of the year.

SECTION 5. So long as any debts remain against Income. the Society, seventy-five per cent. (.75) of the actual income shall be devoted exclusively to the current expenses of the Library and Society Halls, and to the maintenance and increase of the Library, and the remaining twenty-five per cent. (.25) shall form a sinking fund, to liquidate the debt and defray the extraordinary expenses of the Society ; such only, as prizes offered by the Society, the publication of Catalogues, the decoration and furnishing of the Halls, and the purchases of works of art. But whenever the Society is free from debt, eighty-five per cent. (.85) shall be devoted to the current expenses and support of Library, as above, and the remaining fifteen per cent. (.15) to the sinking fund.

Article Third.

MEETINGS AND THEIR EXERCISES.

SECTION 1. The order of Exercises at each regular meeting shall be, Order of Exercises.

- I. Calling the Society to order at 8 P. M.
- II. Reading the report by the Secretary.
- III. Miscellaneous Business.
- IV. Composition.
- V. Appointments.
- VI. Reading the questions for the next two weeks,
by the President.
- VII. Oral Debate.
- VIII. The President's Decision.

Order on Election evening.

SECTION 2. On Election evening, the Oration and Composition shall come before the Miscellaneous Business. When this has been finished, the Elections shall be made.

Order.

SECTION 3. Cushing's Manual shall be the parliamentary standard of this Society.

SECTION 4. Any member, rising to speak, shall first address the President ; and while a member is speaking, no person shall rise and leave the hall.

Order of Debate.

SECTION 5. The Regular Debate shall be open to any member, who may speak only twice unless by permission of the Society.

Prize Debate.

SECTION 6. No member shall enter any Prize Debate of the Society, who shall not have spoken in the Regular Debates at least twice during each of the two terms immediately preceding the one in which the debate occurs : *provided*, That this rule shall not affect those who may not have entered College in season to comply with it, nor those who may have been prevented from compliance by reason of protracted absence from College duties. It is imperative on the President to see that this regulation is complied with.

SECTION 7. No member shall occupy more than twenty minutes in reading any composition, or shall at any time speak continuously to exceed this limit, unless by unanimous consent.

Article Fourth.

ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. No officer shall be elected except by ^{Election by bal-}lot.

SECTION 2. All officers shall be voted for on the ^{All officers voted for on the same ballot.} same ballot ; for which purpose, the Secretary shall provide blanks, with the titles of the offices printed on them. The space between each title shall be filled in with the name of the candidate.

SECTION 3. The Secretary shall call from the list, ^{Manner of vo-}ting. kept by himself, the names of the qualified voters, in the order of their classes : the votes of such members shall be deposited in a ballot box guarded by the officiating President. But no vote shall be deposited till the voter's name has been checked by the Secretary, nor shall any voting by proxies be allowed. When the list has been called, the polls shall remain open for three minutes to allow of any corrections.

SECTION 4. The Secretary, Vice-Secretary and ^{Sorters of Votes.} senior member of the Prudential Committee, shall be a committee to sort and count votes.

SECTION 5. All blank votes shall be uncounted : ^{Votes to Elect.} and in every election a majority of votes shall elect.

SECTION 6. In case there are more ballots than ^{Election; when void.} voters checked, the election shall be void.

